(b) Land being a State subject, decision to identify or allot land for various purposes including Special Economic Zone (SEZ) is taken by the respective State Governments in accordance with the policies and procedures laid down for the purpose. Only the proposals duly recommended by the State Governments are granted approval by the Central Government. The extent of land involved in the 234 formal approvals granted till date is about 33,808 hectares which was already in possession of the State Governments, State Industrial Corporations or private developers.

(c) and (d) Various issues concerning the Special Economic Zones (SEZs) policy including issues relating to land acquisition for SEZs have been considered by the Government and it has been decided that the State Government would not undertake any compulsory acquisition of land for such SEZs approved after 5th April, 2007. It has also been decided to fix the upper limit of the area required for multi product SEZs at 5000 hectares with the provision that the State Governments may prescribe a lower limit. Further, the Ministry of Rural Development has been requested to reformulate a comprehensive Land Acquisition Act to address all relevant issues and also to work out a comprehensive Resettlement and Rehabilitation Policy ensuring livelihood from the project to at least one person from each displaced family.

Investment by Japanese companies

†4453. SHRIMATI SUSHMA SWARAJ: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japanese companies are planning to invest in India;

(b) if so, in which sectors they would investment; and

(c) whether India and Japan have entered into any agreement in this regard?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI ASHWANI KUMAR): (a) and (b) Yes, Sir. Investments are proposed in sectors such as Automobiles, Auto-components, Chemicals, Electricals, Glass, etc.

†Original notice of the question was received in Hindi.

(c) India and Japan have signed a Joint Statement in December, 2006 during the visit of our Prime Minister to Japan for a strategic and global partnership between the two countries, which also envisages stepping up of Indo-Japan economic engagement.

Reduction in import duty on rubber

4454. SHRI ABDUL WAHAB PEEVEE: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether Kerala Government has urged the Central Government to stop the move for reduction in import duty on rubber from Thailand;

(b) if so, the details of the request received; and

(c) the reaction of Government thereto?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY (SHRI JAIRAM RAMESH): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) Kerala Government has raised concerns regarding reduction of import duty on natural rubber and its effect on the economy of Kerala. The natural rubber carries an import duty and there has been no change in the duty structure. Government of India has also kept all the traded forms of natural rubber (NR) in the negative list of various Free Trade Agreements (FTAs) and its import is closely monitored by the Government.

Objections to import of Indian mangoes by Japan and USA

4455. SHRIMATI N.P. DURGA: Will the Minister of COMMERCE AND INDUSTRY be pleased to state:

(a) whether it is a fact that Japan is not importing our mangoes, citing that our mangoes are not vapour heated;

(b) whether it is also a fact that USA has also refused to import our mangoes, citing that they are not free from bacteria;

(c) if so, whether Government have decided to set up two vapour heat plants in Andhra Pradesh; and

(d) if so, the details thereof?